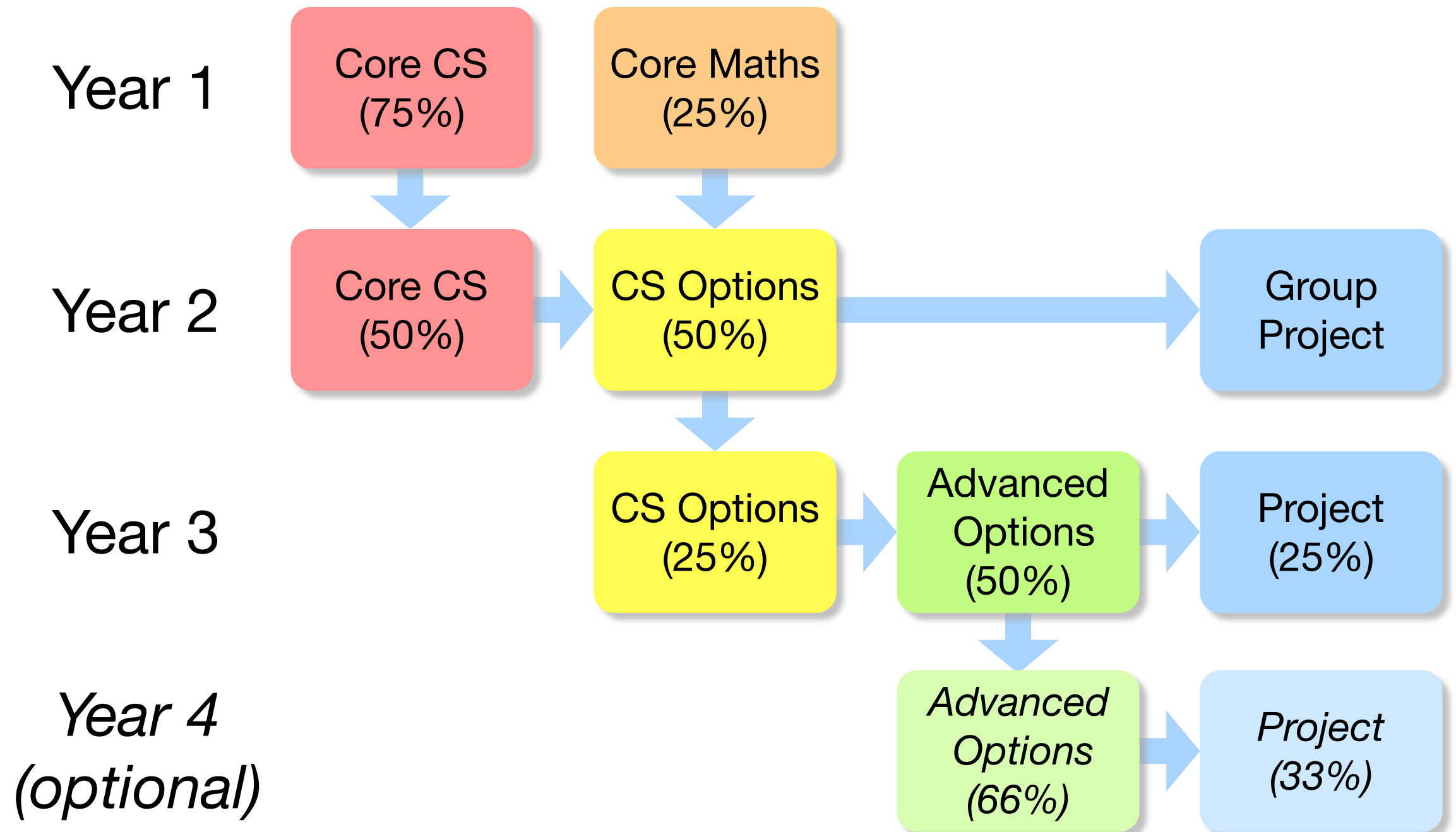


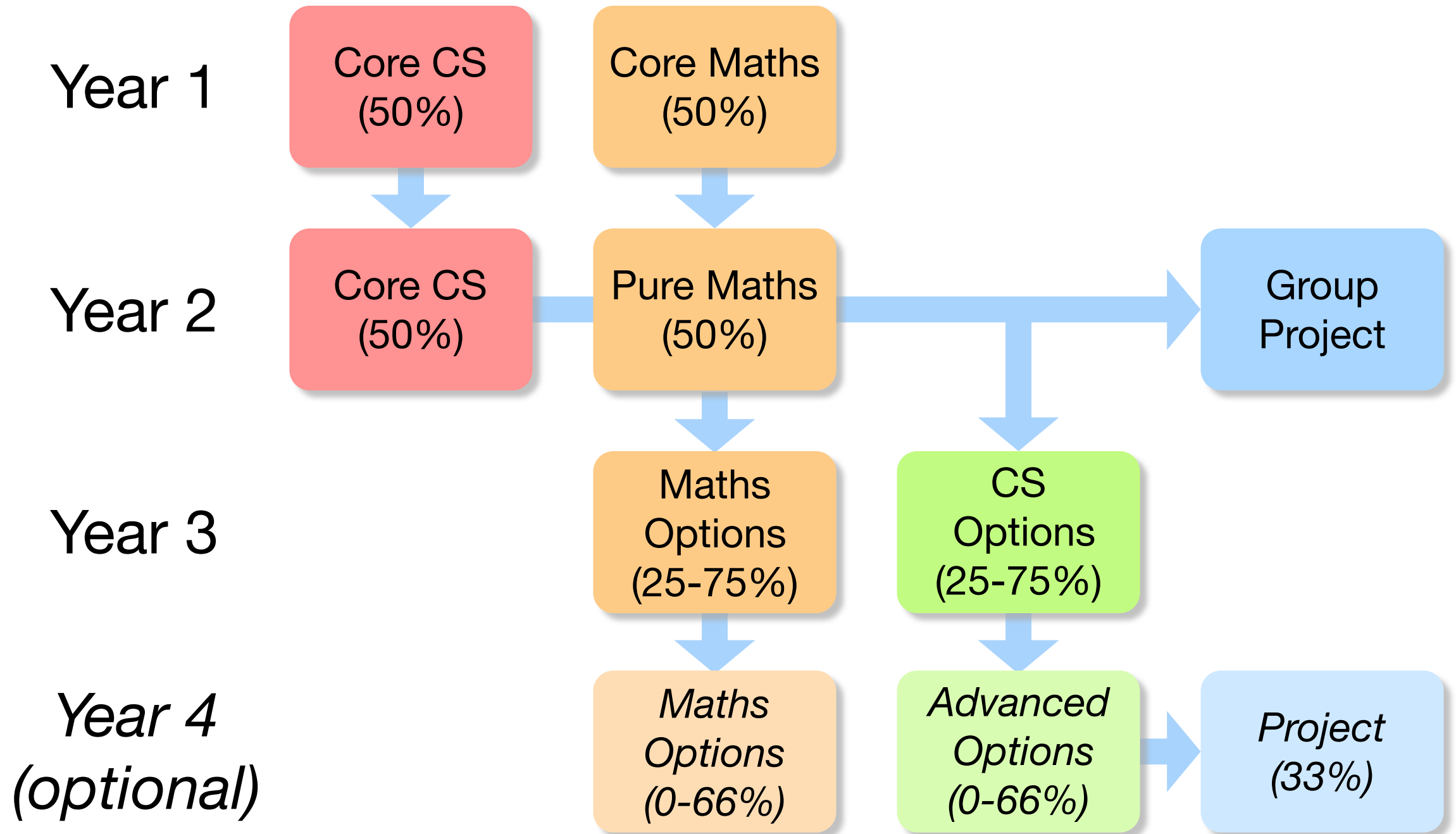
# Computer Science at Oxford

- What's Computer Science about?
- The Oxford courses
- Four *myths* about Oxford

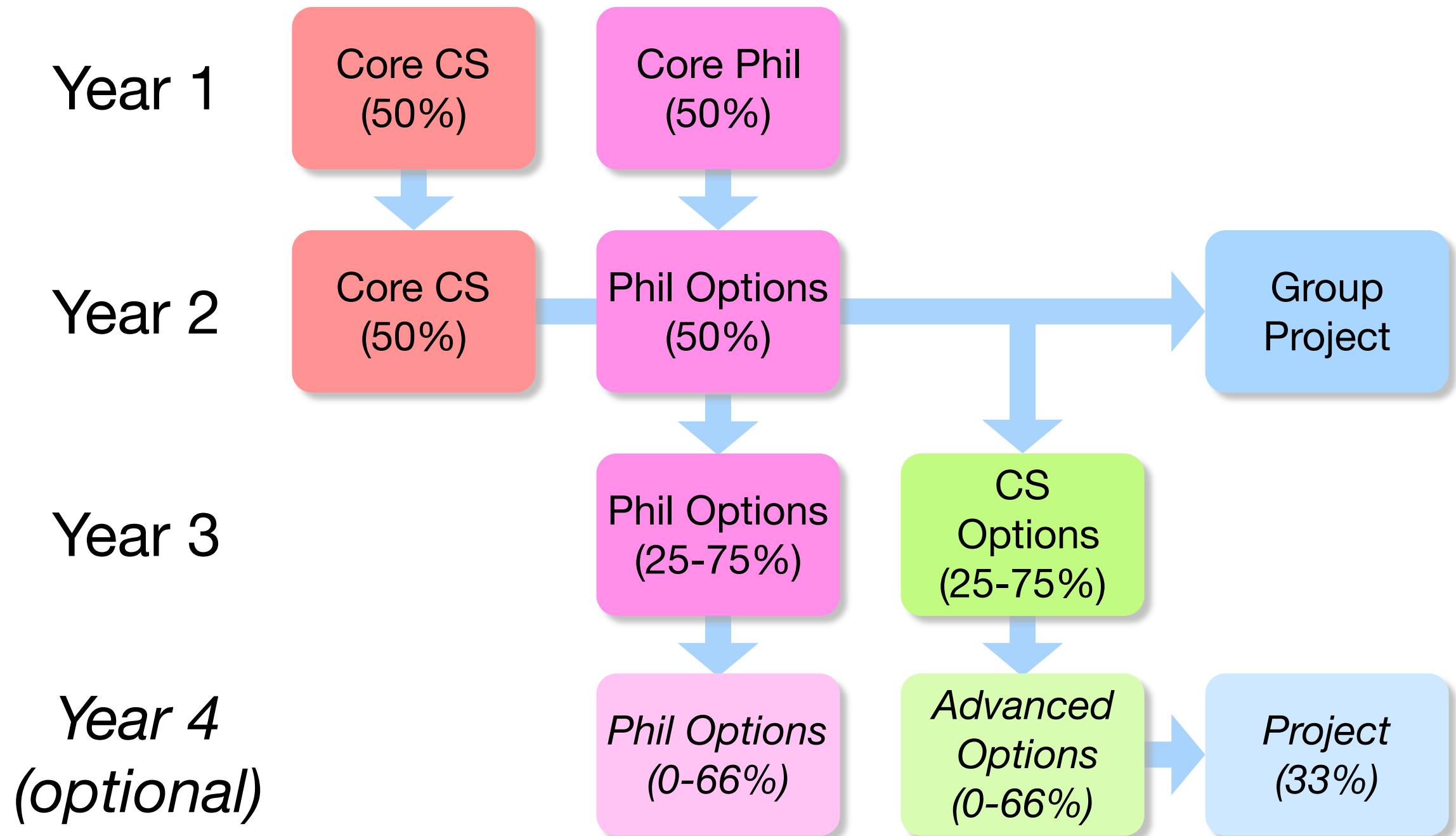
# Computer Science



# Maths & Computer Science



# Computer Science & Philosophy



# Why Oxford?

- Computer Science from the start.

*You study just Computer Science from day one, and we assume no prior knowledge.*

- Principles behind the technology.

*You will learn the latest technology, but you will learn lasting principles as well.*

- Personally-tailored tuition.

*Like all Oxford degrees, our teaching revolves around paired or one-to-one tutorials.*

# Computer Science at Oxford

- What's Computer Science about?
- The Oxford courses
- Four ~~myths~~ about Oxford

# Four **myths** about Oxford

- It's **hard** to get in.
- It's very **expensive**.
- Choosing a **college** matters.
- You have to be very **bright**.

# Myth 1: It's *hard* to get in

# FALSE!

- Statistically: you have a 20% chance.
- Logistically: it's never been easier.



# Myth 2: It's very expensive

# FALSE!

- Most colleges provide cheap accommodation for three years.
- College libraries and dining halls also help you save money.
- Increasingly, bursaries help students from poorer backgrounds.

# Myth 3: Choosing a *college* matters

# FALSE!

- ‘Small’ colleges are often looking for good applicants.
- But do choose a college that has a tutor in your subject.

Myth 4: You have to be *very bright*

**THIS ONE IS TRUE!**

- We find it takes special qualities to benefit from the kind of teaching we provide.
- So we are looking for the very best in *potential, ability and motivation*.

# Summary: the facts

- You have a good chance of getting in.
- Living expenses are geared to student budgets.
- Small colleges are worth applying to.
- We are looking for top ability, potential and motivation.



# Personal statement

- Be *personal*. What sets your application apart from others?
- Be *concrete*. Tell us what you have actually done.
- Be *specific*. Pick out highlights that paint a picture.

# The interview

- We don't ask trick questions.
- We want you to explain things to us.
- We want to have a conversation with you.

# What are we looking for?

- *Potential*. Not so much what you've done as what it tells us about you.
- *Ability*. Given some information, can you put it to use?
- *Motivation*. You're going to study a subject for 3 or 4 years: show us you're interested in it!



# College numbers 2011–12

College	C	M&C	Total
Balliol	7	5	12
Keble	13	5	18
Magdalen	6	4	10
Merton	3	6	9
New College	2	1	3
Oriel	10	3	13
Somerville	1	8	9

College	C	M&C	Total
St Anne's	4	6	10
St Catherine's	14	4	18
St Hugh's	1	4	5
St John's	3	8	11
University	4	6	10
Worcester	9	8	17

# Searching for the maximum

The real-valued function  $f(x)$ , defined for  $0 \leq x \leq 1$ , has a single maximum at  $x = m$ .

If  $0 \leq u < v \leq m$  then  $f(u) < f(v)$ , and  
if  $m \leq u < v \leq 1$  then  $f(u) > f(v)$ .

You are told nothing else about  $f$ , but you may ask for the value of  $f(x)$  at any values of  $x$  you choose.

How would you find the approximate value of  $m$ ?

How accurately could find  $m$  if you could ask the value of  $f(x)$  at only 10 values of  $x$ ?